

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (cancelled)

Claim 2. (original) A method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate comprising the steps of: casting a steel consisting essentially of 0.02 to 0.18% C, 0.05 to 0.5% Si, 0.5 to 2.0% Mn, 0.005 to 0.1% Al, 0.0005 to 0.008% N, 0.03% or less P, 0.03% or less S, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities; hot-rolling the cast steel without cooling the steel to the  $A_{r3}$  transformation point or lower temperature, or after reheating the steel to the  $A_{c3}$  transformation point or higher temperature, to a specified plate thickness; cooling the steel by direct quenching from the  $A_{r3}$  transformation point or higher temperature, or by accelerated cooling, to 400°C or lower temperature; and then tempering the steel, using a heating

apparatus being installed directly connecting the manufacturing line containing a rolling mill and a direct-quenching apparatus or an accelerated cooling apparatus, to 520°C or above of the maximum ultimate temperature at the plate thickness center portion at an average temperature-rising rate of smaller than 1°C/s at the plate thickness center portion between the tempering-start temperature and 460°C, and at an average temperature-rising rate of 1°C/s or larger at the plate thickness center portion up to a specified tempering temperature between 460°C and the  $A_{c1}$  transformation point.

Claims 3-6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (previously presented) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 2, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 2% or less Cu, 4% or less Ni, 2% or less Cr, and 1% or less Mo, by mass.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 2, wherein

the steel further contains one or more of 0.05% or less Nb, 0.5% or less V, and 0.03% or less Ti, by mass.

Claim 9. (cancelled)

Claim 10. (previously presented) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 7, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.05% or less Nb, 0.5% or less V, and 0.03% or less Ti, by mass.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 2, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

Claims 12-13. (cancelled)

Claim 14. (previously presented) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 7, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01%

or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 8, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

Claim 16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (previously presented) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 10, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

Claims 18-32. (cancelled)